



Monthly News

Volume 116 • April 2025
Meetings held Monday's at 12:00 p.m.
In-Person at Cornerstone Conference Center
& Online via Zoom



Welcome New Member!



Amir Kahjavi
Business Performance Advisor
Inspireity



**Congratulations to our
2025 Public Safety Heroes!**

Visit fresnorotary.org to register you and your guest for weekly meetings!

Letter from the President



April - The 4th Quarter Begins

Spring has officially arrived! Never mind that the temperature is warm one day and freezing the next... opening day of baseball has taken place so it's official.

Vocational Service Directors Rick Wolf and Kathy Huebert really knocked it out of the park with Biz Day! A HUGE thank you to our fellow Rotarians for hosting us this year: John Marshall (Castle Air Museum), Nicole Linder (Marjaree Mason Center), Roger Slingerman & Wayne Picard (UCP), Robert Golden (Golden Charter Academy), Jon Dohlin & Jazzmine Young (Fresno Chaffee Zoo), Jerry Lyles & Todd Sheller (Lyles Diversified, Inc.), Rick Wolf (St. Agnes), Sara Mirhadi (Poverello House), Christina Musson (KMJ), and our friends at The Elbow Room. I hope you took the opportunity to attend one of these meetings to learn about one of our colleagues' businesses. We appreciate the effort they all went to on our behalf!

April's program lineup looks great. First up to bat is Victor Davis Hanson on April 7th. This is always a thought-provoking program that is highly anticipated each year. Invite your friends and potential members to attend.

On deck on April 14th is our annual Courageous Citizens recognition program. Thanks to fellow Rotarian and Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp and her team, we will honor community members who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support the DA's office in the pursuit of justice.

In-the-hole, batting third, is our Fresno State Athletic Director Garrett Klassy. We met him briefly last July when President Jimenez-Sandoval brought him to our meeting on his first day on the job. Come on April 21 to hear from AD Klassy as he rounds third base and completes his first year as a Fresno State Bulldog.

Batting cleanup is Rotarian Elliott Balch, President & CEO of the Downtown Fresno Partnership who will provide us with the "State of Downtown" update on April 28th.

Please continue to invite prospective members to our meetings. Our Club has done a great job of bringing in new members this year but we always have room to grow!

Valerie Vuicich
Rotary Club of Fresno
President 2024-25

This Month at Rotary



Victor Davis Hanson

Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution; his focus is classics and military history.



Courageous Citizens

Join us as we honor the courageous citizens presented to us by Rotarian & District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp and her team.



Garrett Klassy - Athletic Director at Fresno State

Come and hear the new AD bring us up to date on all things sports at Fresno State.



Elliott Balch - Downtown Fresno Partnership

Rotarian & CEO of the Downtown Fresno Partnership, Elliott will bring us the "State of Downtown".



Updates from the Board

Board Meeting: March 19, 2025

Avenues of Service

Membership

As of March 31, 2025:

- 226 active members
- 39 honorary

Club Service Report

- The Board reinstated Cassandra Little and approved Amir Khajavi for membership.
- The resignations of John Coakley and Scott Rurik were regrettably accepted.

Club Service Report

- The Directors met with their committee chairs to establish who will continue to service in their roles for the 2025-26 year. A co-chair for Membership Development needs to be identified.
- Programs Committee has slotted speakers through April 21 so the Board discussed potential topics for the remaining meetings in the 2025-26 year. The Committee will also begin to slate speakers for the President-Elect Emil's year.

Vocational Service Report

- Biz Day on March 31 has seventy (70) members registered to date at ten (10) locations.

Community Service Report

- The grants application for the 2025-26 cycle is ready to be uploaded to the web page with applications due by May 31, 2025.

International Service

- First Year Director Mona Cummings will meet with Shirley Grace to discuss our Club's role in Global Grants.

Youth Service Report

- The scholarship application has been posted to the web page and completed applications are beginning to be submitted. Deadline to apply is April 15.

Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect Emil Milevoj reported on President-Elect Training (PETs) in San Jose earlier in March. Incoming RI President Mário César Martins de Camargo is from Brazil and attended the training and announced the theme for 2025-26 will be "Unite for Good." In addition, the focus for District 5230 will be on Literacy.

Upcoming Events

Rotary After Hours

- Wednesday, April 23rd
- 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- The Fairway Lounge 8478 N. Friant Rd (next to Trader Joe's)



**Congratulations to Past President
Gordie Webster on receiving the
2025 Leon S. Peters Award!**

March Bell Ringers

- **Kathy Laird x 2 rings** for Valley Center for the Blind fundraiser
- **Nik Redmond x 2 rings** for his son's basketball team;
- **Luke Ross x 2 rings** for his family and newest addition to his family, son Owen Van Ross.
- **Scott Miller x 2 rings** for Valley Business Awards on 3/19 and in honor of the Peters' Award winner Gordie Webster
- **Anna Pine x 2 rings** for her organization the Fresno Police Officers Association
- **Elliott Balch x 2 rings** for the upcoming State of Downtown event on 4/17
- **Jim VanDeVelde x 3 rings FSU**, for his son's upcoming BA & the music department and Rotary
- **Mike Snell x 2 rings** for his mom and the CTFF event on 4/3
- **Natalie Dodson x 1 ring** for the CA Teaching Fellows Foundation (CTFF)



Rotary After Hours at Bog House Pub!



Thank you to Marty Martinez of TLG Apparel
for sponsoring RAH in March!



The Community Projects Committee presented a check for
\$3,300 to CenCal Sports at the March 3rd meeting.

Time to celebrate!

April Anniversaries - Thank you for your service to Rotary and our community!



TOP ROW: Bob Oliver: 48 years; Dale Mendoza: 37 years; Zatta Hadden: 35 years; Anne Speake: 35 years; Bert Levy: 35 years; Charles Figg: 34 years; Dave Kuzmar: 30 years;

BOTTOM ROW: Gary Lowe: 28 years; Diane Carbray: 13 years; Soyla Reyna-Griffin: 8 years; Bob Shiralian: 8 years; John Zanoni: 3 years; Sukhjit Brar: 2 years; Ethel Groger: 2 years; Frank Puente: 1 Year

April Birthdays - Wishing you the best!



TOP ROW: Nicole Linder - Apr. 7; Robert Mollison - Apr. 9; Mike Falge - Apr. 12; Bert Levy - Apr. 12; Darrick Duerksen - Apr. 14; Michele Cantwell-Copher - Apr. 20; Sig Fischer - Apr. 20; Cassandra Little - Apr. 20; Diane Carbray - Apr. 21;

BOTTOM ROW: Rickie Dhillon - Apr. 21; David Hodge - Apr. 21; Mariah Walton - Apr. 21; Mark Carlson - Apr. 22; Soyla Reyna-Griffin - Apr. 22; Andre Stephens - Apr. 23; Wayne Picard - Apr. 25; Ron Sidoli - Apr. 25; Brian Spencer - Apr. 26; Valerie Vuicich - Apr. 28

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The Rotary Club of Fresno



Looking Ahead



Elsa Asrat
Loving and Leading Others
(LALO)



Jon Dohlin
What's New at the Zoo?



Mike Cruz
Tioga-Sequoia Brewery



Holiday - No Meeting
Memorial Day

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